

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, June 6, 2011
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Mimi Deem	Jessie Hoagland
Marguerite Garrick	Eric Schneider
Rosemary Hardy	
Michelle Harris	

Excused/Absent

Ira Berkowitz
Brad Bernstein
Andrea Maddox-Dallas
Omri Praiss

Also present:

Patty DeForrest
Eric Gruenenfelder

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May 2, 2011 meeting were approved as amended.

Platform Tennis: Mr. Rick Randall addressed the Commission about the possibility of installing two platform tennis courts in Shaw Park. Platform tennis is a variation of tennis that is played October through March. The game is played on an elevated court, made of aluminum, surrounded by a 12 foot high wall. The aluminum planks are heated, melting snow and allowing matches to be played at any time during the winter. The game is played with a paddle and spongy ball. The size of the court and rules of the game allow players of all abilities and skills to enjoy the game.

Mr. Randall reported that currently in St. Louis, platform tennis courts are located in country clubs, such as Bellerive Country Club. This minimizes the participants of platform tennis who do not want to or cannot afford to join a county club. Mr. Randall is part of a group which formed a LLC four years ago to introduce platform tennis in St. Louis. The group received a grant from the American Platform Tennis Association (APTA) to accomplish their goal. Mr. Randall offered to assist with the funding of two courts in Shaw Park, with an estimated cost of \$120,000. Mr. Randall proposed to donate \$40,000 to the project while loan the City \$80,000 to complete the project, that would be repaid, interest free, through shared membership revenue. He asked for the Parks Department's assistance with landscaping.

Mr. Randall and his associates surveyed Shaw Park and determined the ideal location would be directly south of the Tennis Center. The location they identified is the hillside that leads to Fields #1 & #2. He estimates the two courts could be constructed while not impeding onto Fields #1 & #2. Mr. Randall said he would like to see a seating area incorporated into the design as well as a fire pit. He said the participants would need access to the Tennis Center once matches are completed. Once constructed, a tennis pro would need to manage the courts and take a leadership role in the Platform Tennis League that Mr. Randall participates in. Mr. Randall suggested that the courts could be used for Quick Start Tennis Courts for youth tennis lessons.

When asked about annual maintenance costs, Mr. Randall said he did not have that information but would provide Ms. DeForrest with annual maintenance costs. When asked about a timeline, Mr. Randall said he was flexible, but would like to see construction at the same time the Shaw Park Tennis Center is renovated.

Address from the Audience: Clayton resident, Mr. Uchitelle asked about the status of the Dog Park Survey. The question led into the Director's report.

Director's Report

Dog Park Survey Update: Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that the Board of Alderman approved funding to contract a dog park survey. The survey company who completed the Community Needs Assessment Survey and the Citizen Survey will be used to complete the survey. Ms. DeForrest said she

supplied the company a sample of questions as well as agendas and minutes from meetings in which the dog park survey has been discussed. The survey will be mailed to a sample of 1,600 homes and the company has guaranteed at least 400 responses in order to ensure the survey is statistically significant.

Hanley Park Pavilion: Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that the Hanley Park Pavilion was tabled at by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) because the architect did not bring construction materials to the meeting. The pavilion will go back to ARB on June 20.

Budget Update: Ms. DeForrest told the Commission that there were no significant changes in the FY12 budget. She indicated that there will be challenges with the capital budget. The recent community survey showed that Clayton citizens want to maintain current service levels. She invited the Commission to the City of Clayton budget forum.

Shaw Park: Patty relayed to the Commission that Shaw Park will be under construction the next 18-24 months. The Recreational Trail is scheduled to be constructed, the Centennial Greenway Trailhead will be completed, the Shaw Park Tennis Center will be renovated and a new art piece will be installed. Ms. DeForrest indicated that she is working with SWT to coordinate all the projects and make sure they are done in a timely, well-organized, sequenced manner so that construction is done by the Clayton Centennial.

Shaw Park Aquatic Center: Ms. DeForrest updated the Commission on early morning lap swimming. She said that CSP gave up one lane for the early morning program. Staff created a lap swimming program that pass holders and residents could register for. Mr. Gruenenfelder provided the Commission a report on Shaw Park Aquatic Center season pass sales.

Strategic Planning: Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that the department will contract to do strategic planning in the fall. She informed the Commission that they would be involved in the planning process.

New Business / Old Business: There is no new or old business to report.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eric Gruenenfelder